

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants affirm their election of Group I, claims 1-20, without traverse, in a telephonic conference on December 5, 2005 between Applicant's Representative George Lesmes and Examiner Christopher RoDee.

Claims 7, 11, 12 and 18-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to delete "fine" after "inorganic" since the word "fine" does not occur in claim 4. Claims 8, 9 and 10 have been amended to change the dependency thereof from canceled claim 7 to "claim 1". New claims 23-36 have been added. Support for the newly-added claims is provided in the following Table:

Claim	Citation of Support
23	Page 12, paragraph [0025] of the specification and original claim 14
24	Similar to original claim 2
25	Similar to original claim 3
26	Original claims 4 and 5
27	Original claim 7
28	Original claim 13
29	Original claim 8
30	Original claims 1 and 16
31	Original claim 7
32	Original claim 8
33	Original claim 2
34	Original claim 3
35	Original claims 4 and 5
36	Original claim 13

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-17 and 23-36 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 15 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0190545 (Daimon et al) considered with U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0027066 (Yamashita et al). Claims 1-11 and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0142263 (Mikuriya et al). Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 11 was not included in the §102(e) rejection based on Daimon et al '545. The features of claim 11 and 7 have been added to claim 1 by the present Amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-17 are patentable over Daimon et al '545.

Claims 14 and 16 also were not included in the §102(e) rejection based on Daimon et al '545. Claim 14 has been presented in independent form as new claim 23 and claim 16 has been presented in independent form as new claim 30. Accordingly, new claims 23-36 are believed to be patentable over Daimon et al '545.

Turning to the §102(e) rejection based on Mikuriya et al '263, this document has a U.S. filing date of October 31, 2003, which is subsequent to the June 24, 2003 filing date of Applicants' priority application, Japanese Application No. 2003-179254. Applicants are submitting herewith a certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 2003-179254. The translation indicates that the presently claimed invention was fully disclosed in the priority application. Therefore, the present application is entitled to the filing date of June 24, 2003, which antedates the U.S. filing date of Mikuriya et al '263.

In view of the above, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Daimon et al '545 considered with Yamashita et al '066 and Mikuriya et al '263 should be withdrawn. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Daimon et al '545 in view of Yamashita et al '066 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,080,995 (Fox et al) for the reasons given on pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Daimon et al '545 in view of Yamashita et al '066 and further in view of Fox et al '995 as applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 15 and 17-20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,652,509 (Shirose et al). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested for at least the reasons which follow.

Claim 11 was not rejected on this ground. The features of claim 11 and 7 have been added to claim 1. Accordingly, these rejections are inapplicable to claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-17. New claims 23-36 likewise are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above, the §103 rejections over Daimon et al '545 in view of Yamashita et al '066, and further in view of Fox '995 and further in view of Shirose et al '509 should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Such action is earnestly solicited.

For at least these reasons, the §103(a) rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Such action is earnestly solicited.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any

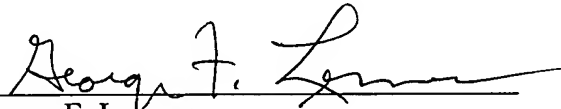
questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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By:


George F. Lesmes
Registration No. 19,995

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620